

NRO REVIEW COMPLETED

[REDACTED]
26 December 1963
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25X1

**NOTES FOR BRIEFING OF PRESIDENT JOHNSON
ON SATELLITE RECONNAISSANCE**

We now have [REDACTED] satellite photography
for intelligence purposes.

25X1A

a. Search of very large areas for new
installations. This coverage is supplied by
the CORONA satellite, which has been primarily
a CIA development.

25X1D

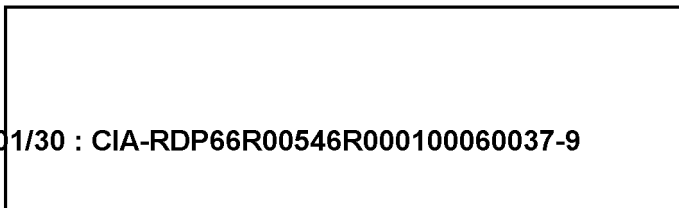


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[REDACTED] launched south from Vandenberg AFB into
polar orbits. [REDACTED] pictures are taken from an altitude
of about 100 miles over targets in the Soviet Union and
elsewhere when required. The satellites stay in orbit
about four days and the film is recovered in special re-
entry vehicles by aircraft near Hawaii.

ILLEGIB



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The CORONA/Search satellite first returned film from orbit in August 1960, and has performed successfully 29 times since then out of 44 attempts. It is launched from a THOR-AGENA at a total cost of  per shot. The CORONA can cover three million square miles (eleven times size of Texas - about same area as all 50 states) per mission in stereo. Here is the typical coverage for one of these flights.

25X1A

25X1D

(Mission Coverage Chart  (A)

CORONA provides this coverage by moving a two hundred mile wide strip below its trajectory, as shown by this remarkable portrait.

(Panorama) (B)

We are able to blow these film strips up to 40-60 times their original size and produce photographs of ICBM sites and other critical targets which are truly remarkable. The quality of photographs that we get is especially highly classified.

25X1D

(Hardened MRBM/IRBM Launch Complex) (C)



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This type of photography provides a major source of raw intelligence data and is one of the most important inputs for our national estimates of Soviet strategic capabilities. So far, we have covered over 100 million square miles of the earth's surface. 95% of the USSR has been filmed to date. In this year alone, we have covered 65% of the USSR and 45% of China. From this photographic coverage we have identified some 15 ICBM Complexes in the USSR containing more than 220 ICBM pads. Over 700 IRBM/MBRM positions and more than 1100 surface-to-air missile sites have also been located and reported.

We are now looking at ways to improve the present system further and to invent a successor with greatly improved capabilities. In the meantime, we have constructed the National Reconnaissance Plan so as to provide one CORONA/ Search flight each month indefinitely.

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As the CORONA [redacted] missions are recovered, I will bring you especially important examples of this photography to discuss in conjunction with our regular intelligence meetings.

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DD/S&T-2532-63
26 December 1963

MEMORANDUM FOR: Regulatory Issuances/DDS
SUBJECT :: Request for Headquarters Regulations

It is requested that one (1) complete set of
Headquarters Regulations, including books, be sent
to the O/DD/S&T.

14
[Redacted Signature]
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